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AMHERST COLLEGE

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# *Alumni Reading and Study In History*

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## HISTORY LEAFLETS

NUMBER 1

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AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS
December 1923

# THE AMHERST PLAN

for

# *Alumni Reading and Study*

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In the belief that a college should serve its graduates by helping them to obtain the best available knowledge of whatever vitally interests them beyond the confines of their business or professional careers, Amherst College offers to its Alumni an opportunity to continue systematically, under the guidance of the College, studies begun during, or undertaken since, their undergraduate years. The means adopted for this service vary widely with the subject, the individual's desires, and the opportunity. Booklists with annotations, outlines of college courses, occasional bulletins, some personal correspondence, conferences at Amherst and elsewhere, are some of these ways. This is one of the publications through which Amherst College is placing its resources at the service of its Alumni.

"Terras Irradient"

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A few of the best books on

# THE EUROPE OF TODAY

Recommended by

PROFESSOR H. P. GALLINGER

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GIBBONS, HERBERT ADAMS. *Europe since 1918.* The Century Company. 1923. $3.00. A very interesting and readable account of what has happened in Europe since the armistice. It presents a sombre picture of the failure of the Versailles Treaty.

BEARD, C. A. *Cross Currents in Europe Today.* Marshall Jones. 1922. $2.50. Eight lectures on present day Europe, discussing the secret documents and negotiations recently brought to light, the economic results of the war, the constitutions of the new states, the Russian revolution, the rise of the peasant class, the labor movement, and the position of the United States in the new world economy.

GOOCH, G. P. *The History of Modern Europe, 1870-1919.* Henry Holt. 1923. $5.00. Probably the most scholarly and objective treatment which has yet appeared of the diplomatic background of the war. It utilizes the great amount of material revealed as a result of the recent revolutions in Europe.

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AMHERST COLLEGE

# *Alumni Reading and Study In History*

HISTORY LEAFLETS

NUMBER 2

AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS
January 1924

# *Alumni Reading and Study*

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# A SPLENDID BIOGRAPHY OF A GREAT MAN, AND HIS HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Recommended by

PROFESSOR H. P. GALLINGER

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SMITH, PRESERVED. *Erasmus.* A Study of His Life, Ideals, and Place in History. Harper. 1923. $4.00. There is probably no better approach to the study of the intellectual life of the sixteenth century and the movements of Humanism and Protestantism that this delightful and highly authoritative biography of Erasmus, whom Professor Smith justly characterizes as "the broadest scholar and most polished wit of his generation." "No writer," he adds, "before Voltaire has left behind him such a wreck of superstitions; few writers since the last Evangelists have bequeathed to posterity so much of ethical value."

SMITH, PRESERVED. *The Age of the Reformation.* Henry Holt. 1920. $6.00. This is not a dry chronicle of events, but an interesting and illuminating study of a great movement by one of the world's foremost scholars in this field. It gives the needed background for the understanding of such leaders as Luther, Erasmus, Calvin, Zwingli and Loyola. The later chapters deal with such topics as population, prices, public order, blue laws, sanitation, private life and manners, the rise of the power of money, the development of the physical sciences, intolerance, witchcraft, education, art and philosophy.

Preserved Smith, Ph. D., Litt. D., is an Amherst Alumnus of the Class of 1901, who is now Professor of History at Cornell University. He has also written another book dealing with this same period, "Life and Letters of Martin Luther" (Houghton Mifflin. 1911. $3.50).

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HISTORY LEAFLETS

NUMBER 3

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AMHERST
MASSACHUSETTS
March 1924

# *Alumni Reading and Study*

## THE AMHERST PLAN

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# THE STORY OF NEW ENGLAND TO 1776

Recommendations by

PROFESSOR C. W. EASTMAN

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JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS, the American historian, has given us, in his *The Founding of New England* (Atlantic Monthly Press. 1921. $4.00) and *Revolutionary New England* (Atlantic Monthly Press. 1923. $5.00) "one of the great chapters in the history of America". The first of these, which covers the period up to 1691, received the 1921 Pulitzer Prize for the best history of the year. To all interested in the early stages of the development of American life these books will prove illuminating and suggestive. The author quotes from a letter from Governor Shirley on the mobbish tendencies of the town governments wherein the Governor lays the blame for these conditions on the town meetings, "one of which may be called together at any time upon the Petition of ten of the meanest Inhabitants, who by their Constant Attendance there generally are the Majority and outvote the Gentlemen, Merchants, Substantial Traders and all the better part of the Inhabitants to whom it is Irksome to attend at such meetings, except upon very extraordinary occasions." These books are a revelation of the undemocratic and oligarchic type of control

which obtained in the Colonies. In the latter book the author stresses the fact that there was a double revolution, one of the discontented debtor class against the wealthy merchants, in short the radical element against the conservative; the other against the English policy of using the Colonies for the needs of England along the lines of the Mercantile Theory. Especially interesting is his theory of the influence of a frontier on the development of independence and radical thought, due in part to the fact that the more adventurous element was being continually sifted out or redistilled from the more conservative settlements which they left behind them. With this comes the feeling of accomplishment and self-reliance with a consequent contempt for the "effete East".

Both books are to be recommended to any one who is willing to sit down with them and read unhurriedly.

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# *Alumni Reading and Study In History*

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October, 1924

# *Alumni Reading and Study*

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# SOCIAL HISTORY OF WESTERN EUROPE

Recommendations by

PROFESSOR LELAND H. JENKS

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An essential feature of the college course on this subject is the initial section upon pre-literary history in western Europe. For this period we find *The New Stone Age in Northern Europe.* (Scribner's $3.00) by our own Professor Tyler a stirring account that quickens the imagination and directs attention to primitive traits that have been constant factors in the history of western society.

The only adequate attempt in English to incorporate such materials into a continuous narrative running through the pre-literary, Roman and medieval periods is GUERARD, A. L.: *French Civilization to the Close of the Middle Ages.* (Houghton, Mifflin, $5.00)

Of the transition from medieval to modern society there is no account to be compared with Preserved Smith's *Age of the Reformation* (Holt, $6.00), one of the most ambitious attempts to synthesize all aspects of the endeavor of a period into a literary unity.

These three volumes are characterized no less by distinction of style than by their suggestiveness of content. Such qualities render them important to all students in this field.

*From the "Announcement of Courses for 1924-1925"*

HISTORY 1: Social History of Western Europe. Prehistoric origins of culture; classic and barbarian civilizations in Europe; medieval institutions and view of life; the rise of the outstanding traits of modern society; the historical process.

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# SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS

Recommendations by

PROFESSOR HARRY E. BARNES

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QUENNELL, M. and C. H. B. *Everyday Life in the Old Stone Age.* Putnam. 1922. $2.50. *Everyday Life in the New Stone, Bronze and Early Iron Ages.* Putnam. 1923. $2.50. An admirable popular account, scientifically reliable, of the industrial life and social customs of the prehistoric period, in so far as they can be reconstructed from the remains.

MARSHALL, LEON CARROLL. *The Story of Human Progress.* Macmillan. 1923. $0.72. A most suggestive survey of the development of material culture and social institutions, with a consideration of the proper attitude towards contemporary problems.

HART, JOSEPH K. *The Discovery of Intelligence.* Century. 1924. $4.00. Probably the most stimulating work of its type since James Harvey Robinson's *Mind in the Making.* Deals with the conflict between custom and critical and creative thought, with special consideration of its bearing on educational problems.

*From the "Announcement of Courses for 1924-1925"*

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS: A study of social, political and economic institutions and problems in the light of their historical development; intended to serve as an introduction to courses in history, political science, economics and philosophy. Elective for Freshmen only.

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# MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Recommendations by

PROFESSOR H. P. GALLINGER

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HAYES, C. J. H. *A Political and Social History of Modern Europe.* 1924. 2 vols. Macmillan. $7.25. A general introduction to the field, with references for further reading. The revised edition of Volume II brings the subject to 1924.

FUETER, EDWARD. *World History, 1815-1920.* Harcourt, Brace. 1922. $3.75. A general survey which emphasizes the expansion of European civilization to all parts of the world and particularly the subject of economic imperialism.

GOOCH, G. P. *History of Modern Europe, 1878-1919.* Holt, 1923. $5.00. An excellent history of European diplomacy since 1878, providing a good background for a study of the origins of the Great War.

*From the "Announcement of Courses for 1924-1925"*

HISTORY 2: Modern European history, 1648-1920; the age of Louis XIV; the rise of Prussia and Russia; the enlightened despots; the French Revolution; the Napoleonic Wars; the reconstruction of Europe; the Revolution of 1848; the unification of Italy and Germany; social and industrial progress; the expansion of Europe; the war of 1914-1918.

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# ENGLISH HISTORY

Recommendations by

PROFESSOR H. P. GALLINGER

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LARSON, L. M. *History of England and the British Commonwealth.* Holt. 1924. $4.50. A scholarly, up-to-date summary in 870 pages, embodying the most essential facts.

WHITE, A. B. *The Making of the English Constitution.* Putnam. 1908. $2.50. A study of the processes by which the constitution took form rather than a mere description.

TREVELYAN, G. M. *British History in the 19th Century.* Longmans, Green. 1922. $3.75. A fuller treatment than Larson gives, by a distinguished English historian, of the period from 1782 to 1902.

*From the "Announcement of Courses for 1924-1925"*

HISTORY 3: English history, 1066-1920; the growth of the constitution; the Reformation; the Puritan Revolution; the Restoration; the Revolution of 1689; the development of cabinet government; the struggle with France; the industrial revolution; the expansion of England.